

Morrison College,  
Transylvania University,  
Lexington, Kentucky  
Fayette Co

HABS No. KY-61 HABS  
KY.  
34-LEX  
9A.

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Kentucky

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
CENTRAL UNIT—ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. T. Hutchings, District Officer  
1708 Heyburn Building, Louisville, Ky.

ACQUISITION  
FOLLOWING...

MORRISON COLLEGE, TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY,  
Lexington, Kentucky.

Historical Data

Year of erection: 1830

Built for (first owner): Morrison College

Architect or designer: "Correspondence in the library reveals that Latrobe was consulted, but the contract was awarded Lexington's own master builder, Gideon Shryock, although he was but twenty-seven years old."

Built by: Not ascertained

Original intended use: College

Notable events and occupants:

"Col. James Morrison, for many years a member of the board of trustees of Transylvania University, had his attorney, Henry Clay, draw up his will, setting aside twenty thousand dollars for a professorship, and when he died in 1823 it was found that the school had been made his residuary legatee, and that forty thousand dollars had been made available for the building of a college to bear his name."

"The first permanent home of Transylvania was a three-story brick structure on the property that is now known as Gratz Park. It was built in 1817.... That building was burned in 1829.... Another building in the rear of the main structure and on the west side of the lot, a one-story building that was the prototype of the one that remains in Gratz Park was also burned,... So it was not until 1830 that the present site of the college was purchased and work was started on the building that bears the name of the school's great benefactor."

"Morrison College was dedicated in November, 1833, during the presidency of Benjamin Orr Peers, a minister of the Episcopal Church."

"During the Civil War the building was used as headquarters by federal troops commanded by Capt. Nelson and by

Morrison College

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southern soldiers under the command of General Kirby Smith. The building evidently served not only as headquarters for troops, but also as a federal prison and a confederate hospital."

Reference: Bluegrass Houses and Their Traditions, by Elizabeth M. Simpson, with an introduction by Wm. H. Townsend. Illus. (Lexington, Ky., 1932.) pp. 83-92.

Prepared by Ida B. Guild August 30, 1940.  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
Central Unit, St. Louis, Mo.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
District Officer

HW 5/19/41

Addendum To:  
MORRISON COLLEGE,  
TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY  
(OLD MORRISON)  
West Third Street, between  
Upper Street & Broadway  
Lexington  
Fayette County  
Kentucky

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127